

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 SY-05 ISO-00 MCT-01 USSS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /091 W
-----085751 230930Z /10

O 230908Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8144
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AF BASE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT. PASS FAA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, JA
SUBJECT: NARITA AIRPORT OPERATING SMOOTHLY

REF: TOKYO 9063

SUMMARY: NARITA AIRPORT HAS BEGUN TO OPERATE SMOOTHLY WITH INCOMING AND OUTGOING FLIGHTS REACHING NORMAL LEVELS ON MAY 23. MINOR HARASSMENT BY RADICALS HAS BEEN CONTAINED BY POLICE WHO ARE EXHIBITING CONFIDENCE THAT SITUATION IS IN HAND. POLITICIANS SEEM EAGER TO LEAVE NARITA BEHIND AS POLITICAL AGENDA MOVES AHEAD TO CHINA TREATY AND DEBATE ON ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. BY NIGHT OF MAY 22, ALL 33 INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS HAD FINISHED MOVING TO NARITA AIRPORT FROM HANEDA. FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS DEPARTING NARITA ON MAY 22 WERE ALMOST INVARIABLY SUBJECT TO DELAYS RANGING FROM 25 MINUTES TO OVER ONE HOUR DUE TO NORMAL START UP PROBLEMS AND TO EXTRA CARE WITH WHICH PASSENGERS AND THEIR LUGGAGE WERE SEARCHED. REPORTS ON MORNING OF MAY 23, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT, THAT AIRCRAFT ARE DEPARTING AT REGULAR INTERVALS OF FIVE MINUTES AS PLANNED, AND ARE EXPECTED TO REACH ANTICIPATED DAILY LEVEL OF 137 DEPARTURES TODAY. MEDIA HAD FOCUSED MUCH ATTENTION ON NOISE LEVEL IN AREA SURROUNDING AIRPORT, BUT NARITA OFFICIALS WERE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ACTUAL TESTS SHOWED NOISE LEVEL SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN HAD BEEN INITIALLY PROJECTED. (BRZEZINSKI PARTY ARRIVED ON MAY 23, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT AT NARITA BUT AT YOKOTA AIR BASE.)

2. ACTIVITY BY RADICALS HAS CONSISTED ONLY OF MINOR HARASSMENT. MAY 22 WAS SCHEDULED END OF "FIVE-DAY STRUGGLE" STAGED BY ANTI-AIRPORT LEAGUE, AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS, ROUGHLY 6,000 ANTI-AIRPORT ACTIVISTS WHO HAD STAGED RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR AIRPORT HAD DEPARTED BY THEN. POLICE SAY THERE ARE NO MORE THAN 400 RADICALS NOW PRESENT IN NARITA AREA, AND FURTHER REPORT ONLY TWO MINOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON NIGHT OF MAY 22-23, BOTH OF WHICH WERE MOLOTOV COCKTAIL ATTACKS BY RADICALS, ONE ON WATER PUMPING FACILITY AND OTHER ON HOME OF PRO-AIRPORT MAYOR OF TOWN NEAR AIRPORT.

3. AT CABINET MEETING ON MORNING OF MAY 23, PRIMIN FUKUDA THANKED HEADS OF ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH NARITA FOR SMOOTH OPENING OF AIRPORT. TRANSPORT MINISTER FUKUNAGA REPORTED HIS EFFORTS TO WIN LOCAL FARMERS OVER TO SUPPORT FOR AIRPORT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL SO FAR AND WOULD CONTINUE. CHAIRMAN KATO OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION SAID THAT, THANKS TO INCREASING SUPPORT FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS, POLICE HAD BEEN ABLE TO KEEP RADICALS UNDER

CONTROL DURING PAST THREE DAYS BUT ADDED THAT FULL FORCE OF 13,000 MOBILE POLICE WOULD HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED AT NARITA UNTIL END OF MAY. HE FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF CHIBA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY, SPECIAL POLICE FORCE OF 500 WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT AIRPORT FROM JUNE 1 AND THAT FORCE WOULD REACH 1,500 BY JULY 1.

4. COMMENT: BY ALL REPORTS, ANTI-AIRPORT MOVEMENT HAS PEAKED. POLICE HAVE WHAT LITTLE ACTIVITY IS NOW GOING ON AT NARITA UNDER CONTROL. SINCE UNEXPECTED HAS BEEN RULE RATHER THAN EXCEPTION AT NARITA, HOWEVER, ANNOUNCEMENT

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8145

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THAT ENTIRE SPECIAL FORCE OF 13,000 POLICE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE WEEK SEEMS TO BE DELIBERATE EFFORT BY POLICE TO EXHIBIT CONFIDENCE. EVENTS WILL SHOW HOW MUCH OF THAT CONFIDENCE IS JUSTIFIED.

5. ON THEIR PART, GOJ POLITICIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY RELIEVED NARITA SITUATION HAS BEEN CALM AND ARE MOVING ON TO NEXT ITEMS ON THEIR POLITICAL AGENDA. ALREADY NARITA STORIES HAVE CEDED TOP PLAY ON FRONTPAGES TO STORIES OF POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF JAPAN-CHINA PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY TALKS. DIET RESUMED SESSIONS ON MAY 23 AFTER SIX-DAY GAP, AND ITS DEBATES OVER CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT WILL MOST LIKELY DIMINISH NARITA'S VISIBILITY EVEN FURTHER. MANSFIELD

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Type: TE
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